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CBC NEWSLETTER

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 43 November/December 1997 Number 6

Mark Your Calendar

Owl Prowl in the Spring

Looking for owls? Come to the spring meeting in Asheville on May 1-3, 1998

Dr. Matthew Rowe, biology professor at Appalachian State University will speak on **"Yankee Owls in Dixie - A Natural History of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Southern Appalachians."**

As an added attraction, Saw-whet Owl prowls on the Blue Ridge Parkwaywill be featured on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Tim Milling, area owl expert with the Forest Service Extension at Clemson University, will lead the Friday and Saturday trips.

Field trip forms and motel reservation information for Shoney's Inn will be included in the January/February newsletter. . . **John Huggins**, CBC Executive Committee Member-at-Large for Western North Carolina.

Fall, 1998: Elkin, NC, September 25-27

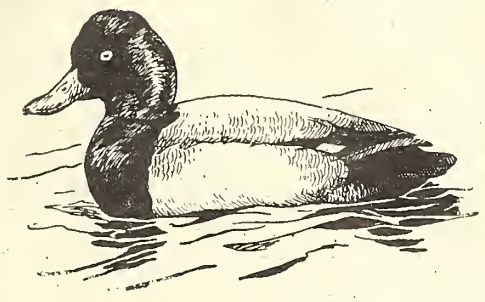
Winter, 1999: Nags Head, NC, Jan. 29-31

Spring 1999: Charlotte, NC, Apr. 23-25

Fall, 1999: Charleston, SC, Sept. 24-26

Winter Birding at the Beach

Bob Maxwell invites CBC members to "come on down."



Come on down to Litchfield Beach January 30, 31 and February 1 for the 1998 CBC winter meeting. Once again we will be headquartered at the Litchfield Inn. From the north turn left off US 17 at the second light below Brookgreen Gardens. From the south turn right off US 17 at the third light above Georgetown.

Field trip descriptions and forms for field trip and meeting registration as well as the room reservations are included in this newsletter. Registration will be in the Spirit Room at Litchfield Inn beginning at 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 30. Look for the CBC Welcome banner on the railing outside. Registration packets will contain meeting agenda and field trip departure times. Most field trips have a maximum number of participants allowed and will be filled in order of requests received. Be sure to register early **(deadline Jan. 10)** and list a second choice for each field trip. Breakfast will be available at Litchfield Inn in time for all field trip departures.

Local hot spots will have been checked for "good" birds and if found, maps will be available Thursday and Friday evenings in the Spirit Room along with other information for birding on your own.

The Friday evening program will be presented by **Joe Carter**, chairman of the Winyah Bay Focus Area Task Force. Joe successfully led the team that won the permanent protection of Sandy Island. The program will include a wonderfully inspiring video "Voices of Winyah Bay."

The Saturday evening speaker will be **Dr. Jessica Young** who occupies the Spivey Chair of ornithology at Coastal Carolina University. This Chair was made possible by the generosity of long-time CBC members, Frank and Virginia Spivey. Dr. Young's program is titled "Grouse Tales--Can Too Much Sex Cause Extinction?"

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1997-98 Christmas Bird Counts

Friday, December 19, 1997

Congaree Swamp NM, SC	Robin Carter/Caroline Eastman	eastman@cs.sc.edu	(803) 782-8820
Transylvania County, NC	Norma Siebenheller		(704) 884-5443

Saturday, December 20, 1997

Columbia, SC	Robin Carter/Caroline Eastman	eastman@cs.sc.edu	(803) 782-8820
Clemson, SC	David Mizrahi	dmizrah@hubcap.clemson.edu	(864) 654-4399
Greensboro, NC	Elizabeth Link		(910) 273-4672
Polk County, NC	Simon Thompson	fence@teleplex.net	(704) 859-9021
Raleigh, NC	Susan Campbell		(919) 715-2600 (day)
Raven Rock State Park, NC	Paul C. Hart	ravenroc@foto.infi.net	(910) 893-4888
Wayne County, NC	Eric Dean	edeangld@icomnet.com	(919) 736-7264
York/Rock Hill, SC	Bill Hilton Jr	bhilton@InfoAve.Net	(803) 684-5852

Sunday, December 21, 1997

Cumberland County, NC	Hal Broadfoot	CKPL94A@prodigy.com	(910) 323-0162
Durham, NC	Mike Schultz	mschultz@acpub.duke.edu	(919) 490-6761
Henderson County, NC (new)	Wayne Forsythe	WForsythe@a-o.com	(704) 697-6628
Lake Norman, NC	Taylor Piephoff	PiephoffT@aol.com	(704) 532-6336
McClellanville, SC	Perry E. Nugent		(803) 556-3841
Morehead City, NC	John Fussell	jfuss@interpath.com	(919) 240-1046
Pee Dee Area, SC	Calvin Clyde		(803) 669-7836
Southern Pines, NC	Libba Watson	weymouth@pinehurst.net	(910) 692-2167 (day)

Monday, December 22, 1997

Long Cane, SC	Steve Wagner	swagner@lander.edu	(864) 223-0416
New Bern, NC	Bob Holmes		(919) 633-3003

Tuesday, December 23, 1997

Rocky River, SC	Steve Patterson	SCBirder@aol.com	(803) 667-8199

Saturday, December 27, 1997

Charlotte, NC	Wayne Covington		(704) 556-7383
Winston-Salem, NC	David Disher	DDISHER@concentric.net	(910) 765-9356

Sunday, December 28, 1997

Chapel Hill, NC	Will Cook	cwcook@acpub.duke.edu	(919) 967-5446
Mattamuskeet NWR, NC	Allen Bryan		(804) 740-8953

Monday, December 29, 1997

Bodie/Pea Island, NC	Paul Sykes		(706) 769-9436

Tuesday, December 30, 1997

Cape Hatteras, NC	Harry LeGrand	Harry_LeGrand@mail.ehnr.state.nc.us	(919) 832-3202
Litchfield/Pawleys Island, SC	Jack Peachey		(803) 347-5810

(continued on next page)

Backyard Birding

with Frances J. Nelson

Our backyard has stayed rather empty. We do have three resident chickadees, and yesterday a White-breasted Nuthatch showed up, but we have yet to see any cardinals. In fact, we've seen none in the neighborhood. Where are the cardinals? Other birds we've seen in our yard since September include one Downy Woodpecker, a huge flock of grackles that stopped in the trees for about ten minutes and then continued on their way, thank goodness, five or six Blue Jays, one Carolina Wren and three titmice. We had a Pileated Woodpecker in our air space but haven't seen it in our yard. One day a couple of weeks ago, I thought I heard the "squeaky wheel" of a Black-and-white Warbler, but I never could locate the bird. And in walks around the neighborhood, we've seen juncos and Yellow-rumped Warblers, but none have visited our yard yet.

One of our problems is a cat who has adopted us. I knew I shouldn't feed her, but she looked so pitifully skinny and was crying so hungrily that I had to feed her. Consequently, the birds have avoided our place. I finally found a new home for her,

and she will move today. She really is a nice cat, but we aren't cat people, so we definitely do not want an inside cat, and outside cats keep the birds away. Next month should be better.

A friend of ours who lives a mile away as the woodpecker flies had a praying mantis on her hummingbird feeder. She said the mantis stayed quite a while, and when a hummer tried to get to the feeder, the mantis would lean back with its front legs up in the air moving them back and forth like a boxer. The whole drama looked like it was happening in slow motion. She had chores to do, so she quit watching continuously, and after an hour or more the mantis was gone. She's never seen that happen again. Anybody else have anything besides hummers at the hummer feeders?

Thus ends our pitiful two months of backyard birding. To be sure, some of you have had a little more activity. How about letting me hear about it? **2061 Ferbow Street, Creedmoor, NC 27522 (919) 528-1156.**

CBC Rare Bird Alert

(704) 332-BIRD

Christmas Bird Counts Continued . . .

Thursday, January 1, 1998

Lake Lure/Chimney Rock, NC	Simon Thompson	fence@teleplex.net	(704) 859-9021

Friday, January 2, 1998

Ocracoke Island, NC	Peter Vankevich	pvank@cais.net	(202) 547-4523
Spartanburg County, SC	Lyle Campbell		(864) 585-1228

Saturday, January 3, 1998

Cleveland County, NC	Pat Wilkison		(704) 482-2614
Greenville County, SC	Len Kopka		(864) 963-2245
Portsmouth Island, NC	Peter Vankevich	pvank@cais.net	(202) 547-4523
Santee NWR, SC	Lex Glover	bglvr@CLEMSON.EDU	(803) 438-9855
Speedway (Charlotte), NC	Judy Walker	jwalker@email.uncc.edu	(704) 591-8181

Sunday January 4, 1998

Buncombe County, NC	Marilyn Westphal		(704) 891-9896
Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC	Bill Hilton Jr.	bhilton@InfoAve.Net	(803) 684-5852
Greenville, NC	John S. Wright	pijwrigh@eastnet.educ.ecu.edu	(919) 756-5139
Jordan Lake, NC	Barbara Roth		(919) 967-4732
Pee Dee NWR, NC	Mike Ielmini		(704) 694-4424
Roanoke Rapids, NC	Merrill Lynch	mlynch@tnc.org	(919) 387-8757
Southport, NC	Ricky Davis	RJDNC@aol.com	(919) 443-0276

A Weekend at the Beach

"**Nell Moore** just saw a Connecticut Warbler in the dunes behind the lodge!" The CBC executive committee was hard at work Saturday afternoon at the fall meeting at Ft. Caswell, the Baptist Assembly near Southport, NC, when **Bob Wood** brought the word. The 13 members present looked at each other for a second then quickly headed out the back door. Although there were only two pairs of binoculars among them most got a look at the immature bird.

Overall the weekend was as **Sam Cooper** said "Quality and not quantity." Warbler movement was almost nonexistent, but the best birds seen were warblers. A Mourning Warbler was seen at Eagle Island in addition to the Connecticut. Other "quality" birds among the 173 species seen during the weekend were American Golden-Plover, Western Kingbird and Reddish Egret. Peregrine Falcons were moving through in good numbers. Both species of Sharp-tailed Sparrow were seen. For the butterfliers Gulf Fritillaries and Long-tailed Shippers were present in impressive numbers.

In their e-mail report on the meeting to Carolinabirds, new members, **Dwayne** and **Lori Martin** of Claremont, NC, caught the spirit and benefits of attending CBC meetings: "Dwayne and I are just returning from our wonderful trip to Ft. Caswell with the Carolina Bird Club. We had a great time and had the opportunity to meet some truly delightful birders. It was refreshing to be around so many people who love birds as much as we do. (All of our friends are starting to think we're weird.) We came away with a different attitude though, thanks to our very motivational speaker Saturday evening (**Peter Stangel**, NFWF). He said we should not be 'closet'" birders any longer."

Meeting arrangements and room assignments were ably handled by **Gail Lankford**, ENC Vice-President. **Sam Cooper** of Wilmington, NC, assisted with field trips. In addition to the Watsons on the registration table, 204 registrants were assisted in finding their rooms and buying CBC caps and T-shirts by **Sandra Richbourg** and **Laura Smith**.

CBC president Bert Fisher presents a gift on hehalf of the Club to Libba and John Watson in recognition of more than ten years service handling registration at meetings.

Want to Go Places?

Swan Days Festival

Dec. 6-7, 1997, Lake Mattamuskeet, NC , Sponsored by The Swan Quarter Service Group and Staff of Mattamuskeet NWR. For more information call: (888) HYDE-VAN or (919) 925-5201.

Midway Christmas Bird Count

Dec. 29-Jan. 4, 1998. Led by Robert Pyle. Contact Bill Brinlee (800) 326-7491.

Birding in Costa Rica

Jan. 15-20, 1998. Butterfly farm, rain forest, volcanoes, birding from boats, coastal birding, night turtle walk, jungle lodging for $1150.00. Contact Brenda Williams (919) 967-5872.

1998 Fence Ventures

Puerto Rico: Island Endemics, Jan. 7-14; **Costa Rica:** Central American Birding, Feb. 20-Mar. 7; **Charleston, SC:** Magnolia Gardens & the shore, Mar. 20-23; **Dauphin Island, AL:** Spring Migration, Apr. 18-22; **Alaska**, May 29-Jun. 14; **Maine:** Bicknell's Thrush & Puffins, Jul. 8-18; **Southeast Arizona**, Aug. 10-19; **Huntington Beach** Shorebird Weekend, Aug. 28-31; **Hawk Mt., PA & Cape May, NJ:** Raptor Migration, Sep. 26-Oct. 2; **England:** Birding & Walking in Cornwall & Devon, Oct. 7-20; **Oaxaca, Mexico:** Cultural and Birding, Dec. 6-12. Contact Simon Thompson, Nature Director, FENCE, 500 Hunting Country Road, Tryon, NC 28782, (704) 859-9021, fence@teleplex.net.

Field Trip Schedule
CBC Winter Meeting, Litchfield Beach, SC
January 30-February 1, 1998

Friday Afternoon, January 30

Trip 1	Garden City - North Jetty, Murrells Inlet
***Trip 2**	Huntington Beach State Park Causeway - South Jetty
Trip 3	Midway Inlet - South tip of Litchfield Beach
Trip 4	Horry County Landfill - Conway Sewer Plant
Trip 5	Brookgreen Gardens

Saturday Morning, January 31 (Half-day Trips)

Trip 6	Brookgreen Gardens
Trip 7	Pier Watch - Gull Roost - Eurasian Collared-Dove
***Trip 8**	Huntington Beach State Park Causeway - South Jetty
Trip 9	Rochelle Plantation

Saturday Afternoon, January 31 (Half-day Trips)

Trip 10	Garden City -North Jetty, Murrells Inlet
Trip 11	Pier Watch - Gull Roost - Eurasian Collared-Dove
Trip 12	Midway Inlet - South tip of Litchfield Beach
***Trip 13**	Huntington Beach State Park Causeway - South Jetty

Saturday Morning, January 31 (Most-of-day Trips**)

Trip 14	Santee Coastal Reserve - Department of Natural Resources
Trip 15	Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center
Trip 16	North Island - Winyah Bay with Capt. Sandy

Saturday Morning, January 31 (Full-day Trips)

Trip 17	Lake Busbee, Conway Sewer Plant, Horry County Landfill
***Trip 18**	A Day Huntington Beach State Park
Trip 19	Myrtle Beach outlet shopping
Trip 20	Historic Georgetown shopping

*** These trips will be of special interest to birders who would like help with identification**
**** These trips will end about mid-afternoon depending on birds being seen. Remainder of day may be spent at Huntington Beach State Park or birding on your own.**

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1 & 10 (Half-day). Garden City - North Jetty, Murrells Inlet: This trip can offer Black, Surf and White-winged Scoter, loons, ducks and possible Oldsquaw and Snow Bunting. A Little Gull was here two years ago. Bring scopes.
Walking: Two miles easy beach walking
Round Trip: Approximately 30 miles

Trips 2, 8 & 13 (Half-day). Huntington Beach State Park Causeway and South Jetty: Station leaders will be located at the HBSP Causeway, at the South Jetty/Tidal Pool area, and along the sparrow trail to assist in pointing out and identifying birds. You should have dabblers and wading birds along the causeway and shorebirds, loons, ducks, etc. at the South Jetty/Tidal Pool. Twenty-six Snow Buntings were here last year. The alternate return trip behind the dunes can produce coastal area sparrows, Sedge Wren and a possible Short-eared Owl.
Walking: Approximately three miles beach walking or one and one-half miles beach and one and one-half miles weedy dunes walking. The dunes walk is moderately strenuous.
Round Trip: Approximately 10 miles.

Trips 3 & 12 (Half-day). Midway Inlet - South Tip of Litchfield Beach: The inlet and adjoining sand bars can produce 100+ Black Skimmers, good gull and tern numbers and

variety as well as Piping Plover. Also possible are American Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit and Reddish Egret.
Walking: Two miles easy beach waling
Round Trip: Four miles

Trip 4 (Half-day). Horry County Landfill - Conway Sewer Plant: Be prepared to see several thousand gulls in a feeding frenzy at the landfill. Will have all the regulars in all age plumages as well as possible SC rarities. The treatment ponds should have good waterfowl and shorebirds.
Walking: Little, easy
Round Trip: Approximately 75 miles

Trips 5 & 6 (Half-day). Brookgreen Gardens: Birding in Brookgreen Gardens means not only birding in some of the best habitat, but also birding in one of the most beautiful outdoor statuary gardens in the world. Expect waterfowl in the rice fields, winter passerines and Red-cockaded Woodpecker in the pine and hardwood stands and waders in the shallow ponds.
Cost: $7.50 per person paid at gate
Walking: Approximately one mile, easy
Round Trip: Approximately 10 miles

Trips 7 & 11 (Half-day). Pier Watch, Gull Roost and Eurasian Collared-Dove: This half-day trip on Saturday morning and afternoon consists of checking Garden City Pier, Myrtle Beach State Park Pier, Springmaid Pier and Apache Pier for regular winter waterfowl as well as SC rarities. You can have loons, gulls, terns, scoter, sea ducks, Oldsquaw and possibly a Harlequin Duck. Both trips will try for Eurasian Collared-Dove on Beach Street in the area of 79th Avenue North through 81st Avenue North. The afternoon trip can also look for rarities among the hundreds of gulls that stream in from the landfill in late afternoon to roost on the beach.
Cost: 50 cent fee at Apache Pier
Walking: Little, easy
Round Trip: Approximately 70 miles

Trip 9 (Half-day). Rochelle Plantation: Rochelle Plantation has old rice field impoundments along the North Santee River that are managed for waterfowl. Shorebirds and waders are possible as well as wintering raptors, and the mature tree groves are good for winter passerines.
Walking: Little, easy
Round Trip: Approximately 70 miles

Trip 14 (Most-of-day). Santee Coastal Reserve - Department of Natural Resources: The old rice fields are managed for waterfowl and shorebirds. Expect bittern, eagles and a possible Peregrine Falcon. There are several colonies of Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and the bottom land hardwoods are always good for wintering passerines, including Orange-crowned Warbler.
Walking: Approximately two miles easy walking
Round Trip: Approximately 75 miles

Trip 15 (Most-of-day). Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center: The trip will visit the South Island and Cat Island portions of the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center. The diversity of habitats results in large numbers and varieties of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, nesting eagles and wintering raptors. The pine woods of Cat Island are home to Red-cockaded Woodpecker.
Walking: Very little
Round Trip: Approximately 50 miles

Trip 16 (Most of Day). North Island - Winyah Bay with Capt. Sandy: Visit North island via Winyah Bay and Jones Creek with Capt. Sandy aboard his large, covered, pontoon boat. There should be good birds en route, and the 9:00 a.m. departure will put you on North Island at high tide when the shorebirds are most concentrated. A Snowy Plover was here for the Christmas Count twice several years ago. If the winds are up, Capt. Sandy will take the Intercoastal Waterway to North Santee River for an alternate trip of birding in a more protected area. This trip should offer the most shorebirds for the least amount of walking. Restroom on board.
Cost: $18.00 per personal payable with registration
Walking: Little. 9:00 a.m. sailing time from Georgetown
Round Trip: Approximately 30 miles

Trip 17 (Full-day). Lake Busbee, Conway Sewer Plant, Horry County Landfill: Lake Busbee is a shallow cooling lake for Santee Cooper Power and offers a good number of bay ducks and possibly Rusty Blackbird and American Bittern. Conway Sewer Plant has shorebirds, waterfowl and wading birds. Horry County Landfill is a great place to see about 5,000 gulls in all age plumages, including Greater Black-backed. You will probably see Lesser Black-backed and possibly a Glaucous Gull. No better place to learn or brush up on your gulls!
Walking: Two and one-half miles easy, broken-up walking
Round Trip: Approximately 80 miles

Trip 18 (Full-day). A Day at Huntington Beach State Park: We will have station leaders at the causeway and the South Jetty-Tidal Pool area. We also plan to have a leader in the area behind the dunes. The station leaders will assist in pointing out and identifying birds. The Tidal Pool should have good numbers and variety of shorebirds and wading birds and the jetty inlet offers loon, waterfowl and possible SC rarities. The alternate return route from the jetty will be flagged behind the Tidal Pool and dunes. This should have sparrows and a possible Sedge Wren and Short-eared Owl. Mullet Pond and Sandpiper Pond will have waterfowl and waders. The mud flats at Crabbers Dock and the causeway should have wading birds plus night-heron and a possible bittern and rail. The carriage path and the nature trail may offer a Rusty Blackbird, Red-headed Woodpecker and Orange-crowned Warbler. As always at Huntington, keep an "eye to the sky" for Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, etc.
Walking: All easy except moderately strenuous behind dunes
Round Trip: Approximately 10 miles

Trip 19. Myrtle Beach Area Outlet Shopping: Lyn Peachey will lead any interested non-birders on an outlet shopping trip leaving the Litchfield Inn parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Trip 20. Historic Georgetown Shopping: Betty Worthington will be leading interested non-birders to this area for shopping, sight seeing and antiquing. Leaves Litchfield Inn parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Accelerated Clear-cutting to Feed Chip Mills Threatens Bird Populations in the Southeast

Since the mid-1980's, there has been a proliferation of facilities that grind whole logs into wood chips for paper and particle board. Since 1985, more than 100 "chip mills" have been constructed in the Southeast, bringing the total number up to 140.

The expansion of wood chipping in the region coincided with a major geographical shift in the timber industry from the over-cut forests of the Pacific Northwest to the recovering hardwood forests of the Southeast. This shift in the industry and resultant proliferation of chip mills has resulted in the accelerated clear-cutting of hardwood forests across the Southeast. Strong scientific evidence suggests that certain bird species, such as neotropical migratory songbirds, will suffer as a result.

Chip mills are highly mechanized operations that can easily convert 100 truckloads of trees a day into wood chips. The average chip mill in the region produces over 300,000 tons of wood chips every year. With 140 chip mills currently operating in the Southeast alone, that's more than 42 MILLION TONS of wood chips every year, roughly equivalent to 1.2 million acres of clear-cut forests. A single chip mill can consume as much wood in one month as an average sized saw mill consumes in an entire year! This tremendous consumption capacity has encouraged massive, industrial-scale clear-cutting across the Southeast.

Clear-cutting impacts bird species that depend on mature, intact forest ecosystems in three ways. First, it fragments the forest which decreases the habitat for bird species that depend on interior forest ecosystems. Second, it increases the area of edge habitat where predators of interior forest-dwellers thrive. Finally, clear-cutting decreases the average age of the forests as older forests are cleared and converted to young forests. This adversely impacts those bird species dependent on older, more mature ecosystems.

Chip mills can consume small-diameter trees -- trees that are typically too small for lumber. As a result, chip mills encourage cutting on short rotations, meaning that less and less forested areas are allowed to mature before they are cleared again.

In the early 1990's the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducted a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to three pending applications for chip mill permits on the Tennessee River. The precedent-setting study which looked at the off-site logging impacts of the proposed mills concluded that accelerated clear-cutting to feed the mills would have caused significant damage to water quality, wildlife habitat and threatened and endangered species. All three permits were denied. In particular, the agencies concluded that the operation of the mills would have adversely impacted bird diversity within a 42 county area surrounding the mills. The federal agencies pointed to a number of studies that show that the lowest bird diversity occurs during the early successional stage of a forest (immediately following a clear-cut), and that bird diversity peaks at or near the level at which a forest reaches the old-growth stage.

The EIS concluded, "If a stand is managed with a short rotation length to produce pole-sized trees for pulp or chipping, no habitat would develop for species adapted to saw timber or old age conditions." The EIS also concluded that if one or more chip mills were operating, older forests would rapidly decrease, having an adverse impact on populations of bird species such as the Pileated Woodpecker, Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers.

Although the three chip mill permits on the Tennessee River were denied, there are still 140 chip mills in the Southeast, 19 of which are in North Carolina, 17 in South Carolina. None of these facilities were evaluated for their off-site logging impacts before they were given permits to operate.

In North Carolina, Willamette Industries (one of the largest timber companies in the Pacific Northwest) is constructing a chip mill in the quiet community of Union Mills, in the foothills of the Southern Appalachian mountains. In June of this year, the USFWS wrote a letter to the USACE requesting that the USACE assess the logging impacts of the mill before issuing Willamette a permit. One concern expressed by the USFWS was the impact the clear-cutting to feed the Willamette mill would have on Neotropical migratory birds that depend on mature, interior hardwood forests. The permit was issued without any assessment of how the mill will impact songbird habitat. A local citizens group, the Concerned Citizens of Rutherford County, and seven environmental groups have filed a 60 day notice of intent to sue the USACE for failing to assess the logging impacts of the mill before issuing the permit.

Until recently, songbirds were thought to have little impact on ecosystems. However, a study published in the journal "Ecology" in November of 1994 found that songbirds play a vital role in forest health by eating insects that cause leaf damage and stunt plant growth. Ecologists nation-wide agree this study shows just how important insect-eating birds are to forests.

Already certain species of migratory songbirds are declining as a result of deforestation in the tropics and in the US. But, with the current operation and continued proliferation of chip mills in the Southeast, the future abundance of these birds is in greater question. And even though there is growing scientific evidence that a declining population of songbirds may have adverse implications for future forests, the industry still claims that clear-cutting is good for wildlife and promotes forest health.

We have yet to fully understand just what role biodiversity plays in the overall health of the Earth. Yet, we seem to be willing to clear-cut first and ask questions later. Fortunately, demands for answers are surfacing across the Southeast as citizens speak out against the indiscriminate clear-cutting that's occurring in the wake of 140 chip mills.

Last year, the Governor of North Carolina directed the state environmental

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agency (DEHNR) to conduct a state wide study of the environmental and economic impacts of chip mills in North Carolina. You can help by requesting to be on DEHNR's mailing list for the study and giving input. Citizens are also calling on Governor Hunt to issue a moratorium on the licensing of any new chip mills until the study is complete. A phone call and/or letter to Governor Hunt in support of a moratorium on chip mills would also help.

Governor James B. Hunt
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 715-4195

Dan Whittle
Office of the Secretary, DEHNR
PO BOX 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687
(919) 715-4195

For more information contact: **Danna Smith, Network Coordinator, Dogwood Alliance, PO Box 407, Cedar Mountain, NC 28718, (704) 877-5865, dogwood@essential.org.**

CBC is now on-line!!

Thanks to the hard work of Russ Tyndall you can point your browser to:

http://members.aol.com/cbirdclub

All the Birds - - A Response

by Fred Robinson

(Editor's Note: During the spring, Fred Robinson of Greenville, SC, went on a birding trip using the American Bird Conservancy's field guide *All the Birds of North America*. He offers "another opinion from a different viewpoint" from Harry LeGrand's article in the May/June 1997 CBC Newsletter.)

We traveled down to the Florida Gulf coast and then west along the coast to Texas, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. We visited several wildlife refuges and sanctuaries along the way, including part of a day at High Island, TX during the spring migration "fallout." What an experience! The entire trip added 21 birds to my life list (granted, it's not a long list). Without the ABC's Field Guide I would have missed many of them. It is much better for me than the Audubon Field Guide which I had been using. I like it!

Addressing some of Mr. LeGrand's specific negative comments:

1. He's absolutely correct about the gaudy cover. The best that can be said for it is that it's hard to misplace the book.

2. The grouping of species by color, bill shape and size, feeding habits, etc. is a real help for an amateur who has not the slightest idea of the bird's identity. Also, I found that it helped me to observe the birds more closely so that I might identify them.

3. The numbers in question are not page numbers at all, but are "Key Numbers" which, in combination with the color bar in the page margin, direct you to a specific area of the book after using the basic identity information inside the front cover (water and shore birds) or back cover (land birds). It's a very quick system once one becomes familiar with it, and that speed is a great help to the non-expert. A book arranged by scientific name, for example, would be of no practical use to me whatsoever.

4. Unless it is needed to distinguish between two different birds, including part of the common name parenthetically seems unimportant. If there were a Blue Catbird and a Gray Catbird it might be a matter of concern that the listing is Catbird (Gray), but there is not.

5. The use of the words "Abundant," "Numerous" and "Fairly Numerous" for the word "common," etc., while not traditional, are quite descriptive. I have no problem with using either wording.

6. The limitation of text given to most species to about six lines is necessary; this is a field guide, not a reference book. Too much text makes a book unwieldy and tends to slow down the identification process. For example, the Audubon book that I have using covers the eastern states, whereas *All The Birds*, which is about the same size, covers the entire country.

Membership Application and Order Form

Name_____ Address_____
(If family membership, give name of each person included.)

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Tel.. ( )_____ ( )_____
(home) (business)

E-mail address_____

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated:

____Individual ($15)
____Family ($20)
____Student ($10)
____Library/Institution ($15)
____Affiliate Club ($20)
____Contributing ($35)
____Patron ($50)
____Life ($250)

Send Materials Indicated:

____CBC Cloth arm patch $1.50 ea., $1.25 ea. in quantity
____CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on) $2.00 ea., $1.75 ea. in quanity
____Checklists 10/$1.75, 25/$4.25, 50/$8.25, 75/$12, 100/$15

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to PO Box 2955, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Litchfield Inn Reservation Form

Carolina Bird Club
Winter Meeting, January 30-February 1, 1998

Accommodations Requested

Reservation Deadline January 10, 1998
(rates, including tax, per room, per night)

_____ Oceanfront Efficiency ($64.20) _____ Oceanfront Room ($53.50) _____ Poolside Room ($48.15)

_____ Lodge Room (non oceanfront) ($38.52) _____ Two bedroom Villa (non oceanfront) ($74.90)

Rates are based on single or double occupancy (villas - four people). Extra people in rooms are $10.50 per person per night. No Pets. All rooms have two double beds. Oceanfront efficiencies and poolside rooms have a microwave and refrigerator. Villas have two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living area and kitchen. Villas and lodge rooms are non oceanfront.

Please mail your **check** (or fill in **credit card** information and sign form) for the first night's deposit with this form or **call** the reservation office toll free **(800) 637-4211**. Cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to arrival for a refund minus a $15.00 cancellation fee. An additional $100.00 security deposit is required on villa reservations and refunded after departure by mail.

Arrival Date_____ (Check-in 3:00 p.m.) Departure Date_____ (Check-out 11:00 a.m.) Number of People_____

Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone Number during day (_____) _____ Telephone during evening (_____) _____

MasterCard____ Visa____ AMX____ Card # _____ Exp. Date_____

Signature_____

Litchfield Inn, PO Drawer 98, Pawleys Island, SC 29585, Tel. (803) 237-4211, (800) 637-4211, FAX (803) 237-8921

Registration Form

CBC Winter Meeting, January 30-February 1, 1998

Name(s)_____
(list each name for name tags)

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone (_____) _____ (day) (_____) _____ (evening)

The enclosed check includes $_____ for ____member registrations at $6 each and ____nonmember registrations at $7 each. Registration at the meeting is $10 for members and $11 for nonmembers.

Field Trip Registration

There is a maximum number which may participate in most trips. Requests will be filled in order of receipt. Please indicate your first and second choice for each field trip desired by writing in the number of the trip. If registering for more than one person write the first namewith each choice. **Friday afternoon: First choice_____ Second Choice_____ ; Saturday morning (half-day trips): First Choice_____ Second Choice_____ ; Saturday afternoon (half-day trips): First choice_____ Second Choice_____; Saturday (most-of-day or full-day trips): First Choice _____ Second Choice_____**

I am including the amount of $_____ in the enclosed check for _____registrants ($18 each) for Trip 16 with Capt. Sandy.

Mail with check payable to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc.**, PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

CBC Newsletter

Published bimonthly by
Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

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Gail Lankford, Raleigh, NC
Andrea Ceselski, Irmo, SC
Sect: Russ Tyndall, Wake Forest, NC
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Headquarters Sect: Tullie Johnson, PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Welcome New Members

R. Jack Davis
Wilmington, NC

Barbara C. Gearhart
Laurinburg, NC

Alan G. Johnston
Chapel Hill, NC

Paul A. Peeples
Cary, NC

Les Saucier
Todd, NC

Willem A. Van Eck
Cary, NC

Maria A. Whitehead
Athens, GA

Deceased

Mary (Dibba) John
Laurinburg, NC

CBC Winter Field Trip

Outer Banks Winter Birds **January 16-18, 1998**

Limit: 20 Participants (minimum age 16, minors must be accompanied by registered adult) **Cost:** $40 ($35 CBC members and Friends of Museum) **Leaders:** John & Paula Wright

Join us for a leisurely trip that combines bird watching with a taste of the history of Nags Head. A visit to the Outer Banks at this time of year offers good opportunity to view large numbers of winter waterfowl long with loons, gannets, herons and raptors. The group will meet Friday at 9:00 p.m. for an orientation session at the First Colony Inn, a restored bed and breakfast offering special rates. Mention that you are with the Museum/CBC trip when making reservations (800) 368-9390. Participants provide their own transportation to the Inn, food and lodging.

This trip is jointly sponsored by The NC Museum of Natural Sciences and Carolina Bird Club. To register, send name of each participant and check payable to Museum Extension Fund to: Education Secretary, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555. Request registration for Program Number 046.

Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

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